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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Chinese Communist Purchasing Activities in Burma

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In the latter part of August 1951, LI Ya-sung (李亚松), alias LI Ming (李明), a Chinese Communist army officer, who is a native of Nanking and was a member of the armored car unit during the Sino-Japanese war, was sent to Burma on a purchasing mission by CHUEN Keng. He was scheduled to leave Kunming for Burma via the Burma Road and was given 83 gold bars to cover the cost of motor vehicles, radio supplies, and foreign medicines which he had been instructed to buy in Burma. As soon as he reached Maiting (approximately 98-00; 24-05) on the Yunnan-Burma border, LI converted two of the gold bars into Burmese currency to use for travel expenses.
2. On 1 September, when LI arrived in Kutkai,¹ he was recognized by a Chinese Nationalist guerrilla leader, who informed the proper Burmese authorities. As a result, LI was detained and his gold bars confiscated by Burmese officials. Although LI requested bail, no action has been taken.
3. The day before LI was detained, CHIANG Kang (蒋钢) and HUANG Chun-feng (黄春丰), two other Communist officers, passed through Lashio with a large amount of money and proceeded to Rangoon to do their purchasing there.
4. At the present time the Chinese Communists are in urgent need of commodities available in Burma. On 11 July, nine truck loads of automobile tires, 344 more tires, and 26 large drums of gasoline were handled by the Hui Li Transport Company and were in the custody of LI Ying-ta (李应达). On 27 July, 156 large drums of gasoline were handled by the Tung Tai, Ta Sheng, and Lo Chiang Hsiang transport companies under the supervision of TOU Ch'in-t'ing (陶钦庭). On 28 July, 156 large drums of gasoline were managed by the Hui Li, Ta Sheng, Tung Tai, and Hsin Chi transport companies.
5. During the first part of August more than 20 motor vehicles arrived in Maiting from Chiu Ku (九谷)² in Burma. These vehicles were released by the Chiu Ku police bureau, which had been bribed by the Communists with individual bribes ranging as high as 700 rupees.
6. The Communists pay at least 10,000 rupees for vehicles manufactured by Dodge and General Motors. The Chinese Communists usually purchase their tires from the United States through the Hui Li (李应达) Company of Kunming and acquire hardware and similar articles through the UB Company of Rangoon.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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7. Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, Burmese cotton is released and allowed to be transported to Yunnan. Usually each shipment consists of at least 900 bales.

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1. Comment. Received as Kuei Kai (貴開) and described as being between Lashio and the Burma-Yunnan border.

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2. Comment. Chiu Ku is close to Wanting, where incoming vehicles from China must park in a central parking lot in order to facilitate control of passengers.

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